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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05733 241644Z

63
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 NEA-09 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, UR
SUBJECT: AMERICAN LAWYERS TO TRY TO ATTEND NASHPITS-TSETLENOK APPEAL HEARING

1. LOS ANGELES ATTORNEY HOWARD POTTER, VISITING MOSCOW, INFORMED EMBOFF APRIL 24 THAT FORMAL APPEAL IN NASHPITS-TSETLENOK CASE (JEWISH ACTIVISTS RECENTY SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS INTERNAL EXILE FOR DEMONSTRATING AT LENIN LIBRARY) IS DUE TO BE HEARD BY RSFSR SUPREME COURT AT 1000 HOURS APRIL 25. POTTER, WHO HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS AT USA INSTITUTE AND INSTITUTE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SAID HE ASKED SOVIET CONTACTS TO ARRANGE FOR HIM TO ATTEND APPEAL HEARING, BUT WAS TOLD HEARING, AS ORIGINAL TRIAL, WOULD NOT BE OPEN TO PUBLIC. REASON GIVEN WAS THAT CASE INVOLVED "STATE SECURITY" ELEMENTS AND "THE MORALITY OF THE SOVIET STATE." POTTER TOLD EMBOFF HE STILL PLANNED TO VISIT PROCURATOR GENERAL'S OFFICE AND RSFSR SUPREME COURT OFFICES TO ATTEMPT TO BOTAIN PERMISSION TO SIT IN ON HEARING. HE ALSO SAID THERE IS A LARGE GROUP OF AMERICAN LAWYERS FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND CLEVELAND NOW IN MOSCOW, WHO HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH MOSCOW LAWYERS ORGANIZATION AND WHO ALSO INTEND TO TRY TO ATTEND HEARING. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONTACT BETWEEN THIS GROUP AND MOSCOW JEWISH ACTIVISTS AND GOOD NUMBER OF
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05733 241644Z

LAWYERS PLAN TO GO TO RSFSR SUPREME COURT BUILDING

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MRONING OF APRIL 25, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT RECEIVE
PERMISSION TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS. SOME JEWISH ACTIVISTS
ALSO PLAN TO BE PRESENT. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES
OF UNPLEASANT INCIDENT, EMBOFF SUGGESTED TO POTTER
THAT GROUP SHOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED
IN POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF SOVIET LAW THROUGH OVERT
DEMONSTRATION WITH JEWISH ACTIVISTS, OR SEPARATELY.
STOESSEL

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